



A.W. Benson & Co. Belmont, Mass.

Luther W. Mott



Memorial Addresses

DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES IN MEMORY OF
LUTHER W. MOTT

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE
FROM NEW YORK



Sixty-Eighth Congress

MAY 4, 1924



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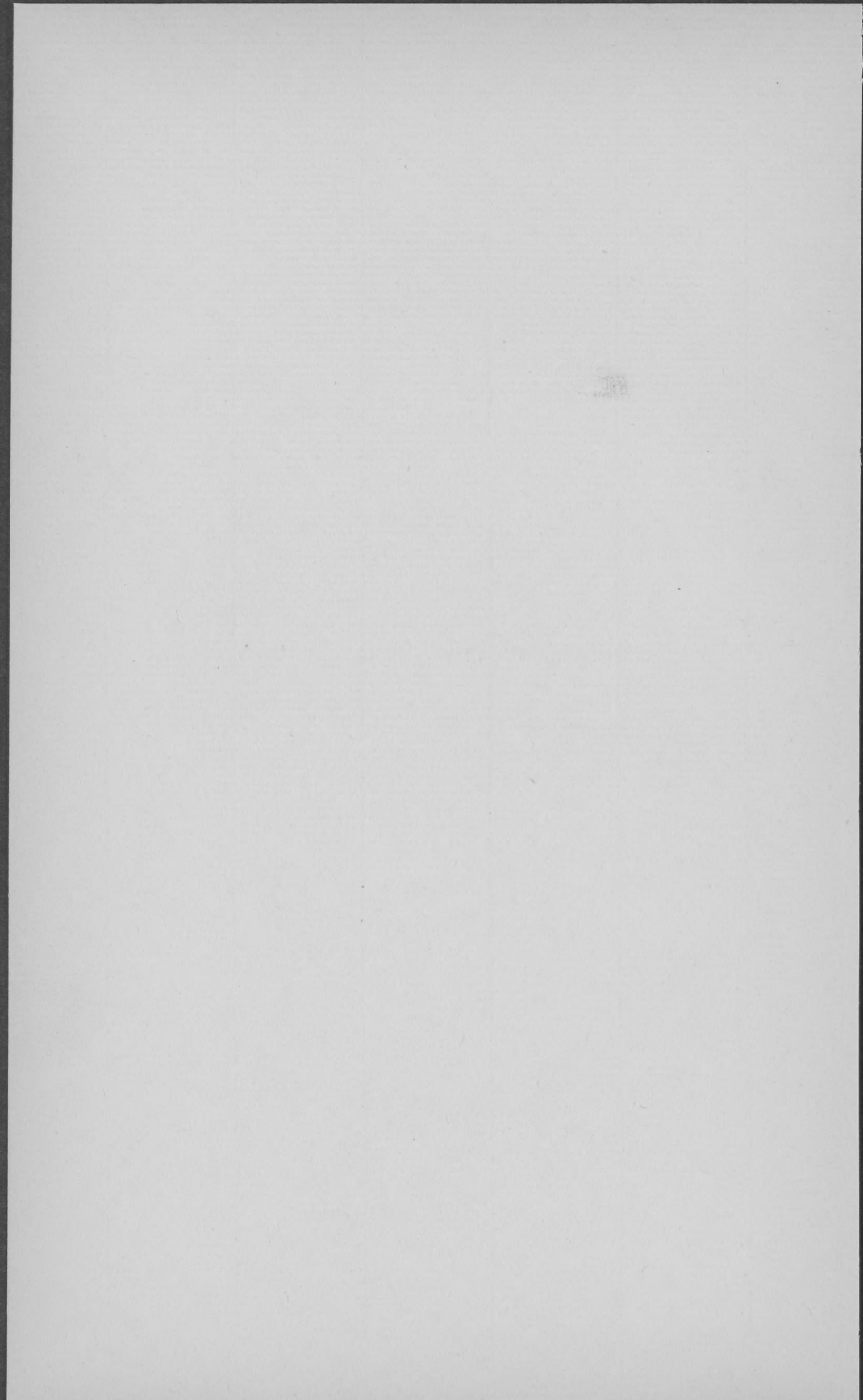
WASHINGTON

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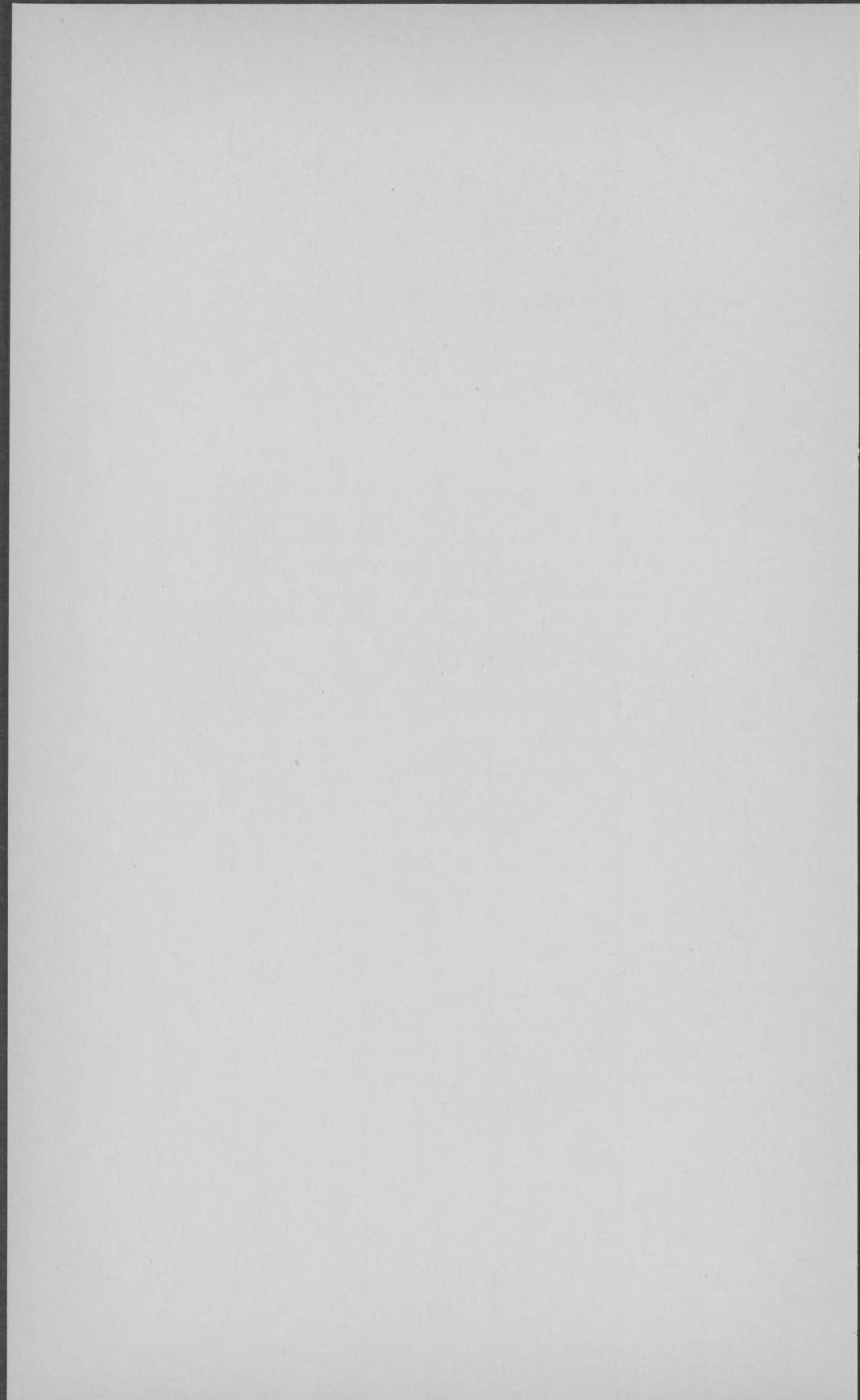
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Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives



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Proceedings in the House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, *December 5, 1923.*

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sorrow that I announce the death of the Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, a Member of Congress from the State of New York, whose service dates back longer than that of any other Member on this side of the Hall.

At some future time I shall ask the Speaker to designate a day when we can pay our respect to the memory of the late Mr. MOTT. For the present I offer the following resolution and move its adoption.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 19) as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. LONGWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of our deceased colleagues, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, December 6, 1923, at 12 o'clock noon.

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THURSDAY, *December 13, 1923.*

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Craven, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved further, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

FRIDAY, *April 11, 1924.*

Mr. CAREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on Sunday, May 4, 1924, at 3 o'clock p. m., the House may assemble to hold memorial exercises in honor of the late William Bourke Cockran, Daniel J. Riordan, LUTHER W. MOTT, and James V. Ganly, all Members elected to this House and who have since died.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from New York asks unanimous consent that there may be a session of the House on Sunday, May 4, 1924, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of holding memorial exercises on the deceased Members named. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

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SUNDAY, May 4, 1924.

The House met at 3 o'clock p. m., and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore, Hon. James S. Parker, of New York.

Rev. M. J. Riordan, pastor of St. Martin's Church, Washington, D. C., offered the following prayer:

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice; let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read the special order for to-day.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. CAREW, by unanimous consent—

Ordered, That Sunday, May 4, 1924, at 3 o'clock p. m., be set apart for addresses on the life, character, and public services of Hon. W. Bourke Cockran, Hon. Daniel J. Riordan, Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, and Hon. James V. Ganly, late Representatives from the State of New York.

Mr. CAREW. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 283) as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the

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memory of Hon. W. Bourke Cockran, Hon. Daniel J. Riordan, Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, and Hon. James V. Ganly, late Members of the House from the State of New York.

Resolved, That Members be granted leave to extend their remarks on the life, character, and public services of the late Representatives.

Resolved, That, as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of their distinguished public careers, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send copies of these resolutions to the families of the deceased.

The resolutions were agreed to.

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Address by Representative Snell

Of New York

MR. SPEAKER: We are met here to-day to mourn the death of a colleague and friend who has answered the last roll call, who has passed to the great beyond, loved by his family and friends, respected by his associates, and honored by a constituency he had so faithfully and conscientiously served for many years.

LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT was born in Oswego, N. Y., on November 30, 1874, and died at the family homestead in that city on July 10, 1923, at the age of 49 years. He attended the public schools and graduated from the Oswego High School in 1892, and from Harvard College with the class of 1896. After graduating from college he returned and took a post-graduate course. He first entered newspaper work, but soon left that to become associated with his father, the Hon. John T. Mott, who was then and is now president of the First National Bank of Oswego. On account of diligent application to this work, within a short time he was advanced to the position of vice president and cashier, and held these positions until the time of his death.

Coming as he did from a long line of men, both father and grandfather, who had been prominent in the politics of New York State, he naturally became interested in public affairs. His training and inherent adeptness to this work made him

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early in life a leader in local politics. He held a few minor city offices, but his first real prominence in New York State politics was when Charles E. Hughes, then Governor of New York State, appointed him superintendent of banks, one of the most important appointive offices in the State. From this time on he assumed an important rôle in the political life of Oswego County and the north country. Coming to Congress in the fall of 1911, the beginning of the Sixty-third Congress, he served continually until the time of his death and had been reelected to the Sixty-eighth Congress. During his service here he was a member of the Committees on Claims and on Foreign Affairs, and for the last three terms had been a member on the Ways and Means Committee. He was also chairman of the New York Republican delegation.

LUTHER W. MOTT was an energetic, hard-working Member of Congress, and no man in this body was more active or knew the wishes of his constituents better than he. He was a good judge of public sentiment and at all times represented it as he found it among his people. He figured service was stronger than talk, and I know of no man who was more influential or had more friends among the people of his district. Prompt attention to the people's business was his motto at all times. He was a pioneer in both the prohibition and woman suffrage causes, and in both he proved himself not only progressive but awake to the spirit of the time.

Of all the public men I have known I think I can truthfully say LUTHER MOTT was the kindest, and

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never was he too busy to do a favor or render a service to a friend. Another of his strong points was his loyalty to his friends. When a man was once a friend he always stood by him, and this loyalty of friends is plainly shown by the fact that during the seven times he was a candidate for Congress he never had a contest in the primaries and was elected each time by increased majorities. While a Member of Congress he was honored with a degree of doctor of laws by St. Lawrence University at Canton, N. Y., and George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

As a private citizen, as a public official, he maintained that same modest, unassuming mode of life, and never ceased to grow in mental power and capacity to serve his people. He met each new responsibility and successfully mastered it. He filled with credit to himself, his family, and his State each new responsibility thrust upon him. He died at the height of his popularity and usefulness, a faithful public servant, mourned by a devoted people, who loved him for his frank and kindly dealings with his fellow men.

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Address by Representative Cullen
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: Putting our thoughts in language that will properly express our feelings toward departed friends is, indeed, a hard task. To pay fitting tribute to four statesmen like William Bourke Cockran, Daniel J. Riordan, LUTHER W. MOTT, and James Vincent Ganly is doubly hard, because their passing is a loss not only to their families and friends but is a loss to the entire Empire State and to the Nation.

I personally deeply mourn the passing away of Daniel J. Riordan, W. Bourke Cockran, LUTHER W. MOTT, and James Vincent Ganly, all of whom typified the highest ideals and the very noblest and best American manhood and statesmanship. And thus I bid farewell to beloved friends and colleagues and leave them to the rest that they have so nobly earned, the rest which is the portion of the just till they are called to the dawn of the eternal day.

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*Address by Representative Sweet
Of New York*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The invitation to say something of the life and public services of LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT upon this occasion and in this presence touches me very deeply.

It is indeed an honor which I appreciate, and I am gratified at being afforded an opportunity to testify to the high character and great achievement of a dear friend with whom I was so intimately associated in social and political life.

LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT was born in old Oswego, a city rich in history and tradition, and there in his early life molded a character which stood the test throughout his entire career, both private and public; his education in the city grammar and high schools, continued through that great institution of learning, Harvard University, from which he graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts, nurtured those soul-implemented ideals that bespeak manhood, integrity, and honor.

The man who receives honor is the man whose life and work are most consonant with the ideals of the country in which he lives. To be true to such an ideal means honor and renown. In no land has such honor ever been purchased by wealth. It comes alone from service, self-sacrifice, and patriotic devotion to duty. In every land honor and renown are accorded to every citizen

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who fills his life with service to others in any walk of life, public or private, civil or martial; and such was the life of LUTHER MOTT. No one can point out the source of the American ideal of manhood. Like our people, our ideals seems to have been drawn from every part of the civilized globe. In them are to be discovered the religious teachings of all denominations, the self-sacrifice of the early founders of our Republic, who were willing to endure anything that they might enjoy freedom of conscience, and the courage and bravery of the early colonists, whose bold patriotism compelled them to take up arms to fight for a place where their ideals might be worked out in human conduct.

From whatever source this well-recognized American spirit came, in these days and times it expresses itself in self-reliance, fair play, and the giving of equal opportunity. We visualize the American ideal in the self-reliant man who asks no favors but demands an opportunity as his right, in the self-sacrificing man who is willing to spend and be spent that good may prevail, and in the patriotic man who under heaven finds his country's demand superior and undeniable.

The American ideal demands honesty, clean living, fair dealing, equal opportunity to all, industry, and devotion to her institutions; and the American citizen who is true to that ideal, who is alert, active, unrestrained, and devoted in the performance of his duty, the American people have always crowned and will always continue to crown with honor; and as men who have lived

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consistently and honorably up to that ideal pass away the hearts of the American people are proud to acknowledge their service with the highest measure of praise, and whether or not their memorials consist of statues or other material construction, they earn and they possess an everlasting memorial in the hearts and affections of the country's people. Those of you who were privileged to know LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT and with him labor in these Halls of Congress, know of his great devotion to the interests of our country, his untiring effort for the greatest service to his district and its people, his self-sacrifice that greatest good and the best for all might prevail, know that his was a life in keeping with the ideals I have endeavored to picture and to him an indestructible monument of love, devotion, and undying confidence he himself builded in the hearts of his people.

To-day we gather to pay tribute to his memory; and while it seemed cruel that he should have been stricken from the field of activity in the summer of his life, we can but take comfort and give comfort to his loved ones who patiently wait the re-joining in the great beyond by bringing afresh to their minds that Almighty God asks nothing for nothing, and as we lift our hearts to Him in prayer we say, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." If we mean this, and if it comes from our hearts, He will respond with a balm for every wound and a joy to balance every sorrow, and He will give us each day in our affliction abundant consolation in that almost universal belief that Divine Providence makes all things equal and solves for the just man the mystery of death as life everlasting.

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Address by Representative Parker *Of New York*

MR. SPEAKER: Among the oldest customs of this House is that of commemorating the lives, character, and public services of men who die while serving in its membership. However this custom may have originated, it is particularly appropriate that it should be perpetuated and followed by the House. In this era public men are subjected to so much criticism, and so much evil is attributed to them, so many sinister motives are charged as characterizing their every public act, that it is highly fitting that their intimate associates in public life should at some time make a record of the good things for which such men have been noted and the good they have been able to accomplish.

LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT was an indefatigable worker; his mind was being daily repaired by diligent application. He studied legislation with attention and deep thought. He gave his talents in the interest of the public good for peace and concord.

LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT was born, reared, educated, lived, worked, and passed away in the State of his nativity, New York.

Whenever a colleague or an associate or one who has attained distinction passes away there rises a duty which the living owe to the dead. In the discharge of that duty, solemn as it is, we are

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met here this day. LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT was my office neighbor.

He came from my State. He was my associate upon the floor of this House. He knew many of my acquaintances. We have strolled the streets of this city together at different times. We have exchanged views upon important pending legislation and on varied subjects. He was my friend. I grew to know the man, his methods, his purposes, his opinions, and his worth.

He brought to the investigation of any subject under consideration a trained mind. His arguments were logical, forceful, his statements concise, and his judgments sound, his mental processes were rapid, his industry intense, his integrity was unquestioned, his character above reproach, and that, after all, is the best asset a man can have. He was resolute and firm in his convictions. His reputation was not confined to the boundaries of his own district; it extended far beyond. Some men like so to live that when they have gone they will be held in loving remembrance by those whom they have left behind; some there are who like so to work that when the last dread summons comes they may know that the influence and the results of good deeds wrought here may be projected far into the future. Our colleague has secured both of these. He lived as though he were to die tomorrow, and he worked as though he were to live forever. His labors are finished, his life is ended, the door was open, he crossed its threshold; he is absent but not forgotten.

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Address by Representative Fish Of New York

LUTHER W. MOTT, the dean of the Republican Members of Congress from New York State, came from an ancient and distinguished line of ancestors who for generations have served their country in politics. Their family history has been closely identified with the growth and development of the northwestern section of New York State.

Born in Oswego November 30, 1874, he was educated at the Oswego High School and Harvard College. He early became affiliated with the banking business, which was his sole avocation, except politics, until he died.

In 1910 he was elected president of the New York State Bankers' Association.

Mr. MOTT was elected to Congress as a Republican in 1912, the year that the Progressive Party polled more electoral votes than the Republicans. Most of the Republican candidates for Congress from New York State suffered defeat in the Democratic landslide when Woodrow Wilson was elected President. Therefore Mr. MOTT, although belonging to the minority party on his entrance into Congress, immediately became an important factor in Republican councils.

When the Republicans returned to power in the House of Representatives in 1919, LUTHER MOTT became the dean of the Republican Members from the Empire State, and was elected chairman of the

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delegation. He also became a member of the important Ways and Means Committee, where he took an active part in helping and in securing adequate protection for the great manufacturing interests of his State.

Gentle and courteous in manner, liberal in his views, he made an ideal Representative of his people. He always appreciated there were two sides to every question, and never rushed in blindly on account of prejudice or sentiment. He was a trained and experienced political leader, and had he lived longer would unquestionably have become one of the most influential Republican leaders in New York State politics, and consequently in the United States.

Although a banker by inheritance and training, he was an outspoken advocate of adjusted compensation for the veterans of the World War; he was equally the friend of the disabled soldiers, and stood for all veteran relief legislation.

He devoted his entire time to serving and representing his constituents, which was appreciated fully in his district, as shown by the large majorities he received. In 1922 when the Democrats swept New York State and elected their governor by 300,000, LUTHER MOTT received over 20,000 majority, whereas his Republican colleagues everywhere suffered largely reduced majorities or were defeated. He was untiring in his willingness and eagerness to do kind and obliging things for all who reasonably or unreasonably asked them at his hands at any cost or time or trouble to himself. He literally sacrificed his own personal and private interests on the altar of public service.

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When he died at his home at Oswego last summer he was in the prime of life and at the height of his career, with a bright future to which to look forward.

His family life had been most happy. His attractive and intelligent wife was his helpmate in politics and in social circles in Washington. He left two daughters and a son, who was a student in Harvard University.

If ever a man had a loving family, a bright political future, and everything worth while in the world to live for it was LUTHER W. MOTT.

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

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Address by Representative Snyder
Of New York

MR. SPEAKER: Those who have already addressed the House have, in glowing phrase, detailed the splendid public service of LUTHER W. MOTT to his country and sketched a loving portrait of his life. I can add no coloring to this portrait, but for many years LUTHER W. MOTT was my true and tried friend. On many occasions I drew upon his friendship, and on every occasion received from him unstinted testimonial of his affection. I can not, therefore, be silent on an occasion of this character and not lay my humble tribute upon the bier of my beloved friend.

The district which he represented in Congress adjoined the district which I have the honor of representing, and I speak for his daily associates and neighbors; people who loved him as one of their own household; people to whom his unofficial life was a beautiful inspiration. He was a devoted husband, and his death was a great loss to his family, to the Nation, and to the State of New York. Those of us whom he has left behind honor his high character and love his memory.

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Address by Representative Reed *Of New York*

MR. SPEAKER: It has been said that he who sets before his fellows an example of industry and upright honesty of purpose in life has a present as well as a future influence upon the well-being of his country, for his life and character pass unconsciously into the lives of others and propagate good examples for all time to come. I wish to pay a brief tribute of affection and respect to such a man.

HON. LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT, whose untimely death we all mourn, exemplified the admirable virtues which I have mentioned. A man may possess these noble attributes of character and yet be unapproachable and austere. Such was not the case with our departed colleague. Although quiet and unassuming, he was always kind, courteous, and deeply interested in those who came to him for help. I am one of those who was the recipient of his many acts of kindness.

I shall not attempt to touch upon those details of his early life which are better known to the good people whom he had the honor to represent. We first met when I entered Congress in 1918. This acquaintance soon ripened into an intimate personal friendship, which I shall always treasure.

There is no need for me to set forth his achievements in Congress, for these are a matter of public record. I know that the people of his

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congressional district held him in high esteem not only by reason of his distinguished public service but because of his unfailing kindness to them and sympathetic interest in them. It was his constant aim and joy to be of service to his district and to his friends. This was especially true with reference to the veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish War, and the World War. He was unremitting in his efforts in their behalf. I mention this because it reveals the kindly and sympathetic character of the man.

It is safe to say that thousands of those who believed in him and supported him politically will never know of the long hours which he devoted to the duties of his office. Whether or not the files of his office or the public records ever disclose fully the burden of business which he transacted, there are some of us who feel that he worked beyond his strength. The mental and physical strain to which he subjected himself in the faithful discharge of public duties was, no doubt, a contributing cause to his untimely and sudden death. His tireless work as a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the ability with which he performed each task assigned to him is best known to his colleagues who served with him. I believe that his associates will bear witness that there are few men in public life who have discharged their duties with more energy and with greater fidelity than did Congressman MOTT during the consideration of the recent tariff measure.

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I believe that his unselfish devotion to duty has a present as well as a future value to his country; that his life and his character will be an inspiration to others; that his actions and his deeds will propagate good example throughout the years to come.

Hon. LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT has left to his bereaved family the rich heritage of a spotless record of conspicuous public service and a good name.

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Address by Representative MacGregor
Of New York

MR. SPEAKER: What is life? What is the purpose of our existence? Whence came we and whither bound? These are mysteries unsolved. Our visions are limited, our strength but small. The Creator has implanted in our being aspirations and desires and ambitions. There is also within us a sense of immortality. We do not know, but believe that the passing from this life is not the end. We reason that there must be some divine purpose in our creation. Without this belief life would be bereft of its inspiration.

When we analyze success in life we find but one true basis, and that is "service." A man may achieve fame, he may amass the wealth of a Croesus, but if his life has not added to the advancement or happiness of mankind he has failed.

LUTHER MOTT's life was a success. The proof is that he was enshrined in the hearts of his friends and the people who knew him. He knew the people—he knew the man on the street, he knew the children, he knew the poor and the afflicted—they came to him with a knowledge that he was their companion and friend, in whom they could confide and from whom they could expect aid and assistance in time of need. They loved him.

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His life exemplified that beautiful poem of Sam Foss:

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn
In the place of their self-content;
There are souls, like stars, that dwell apart
In a fellowless firmament;
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths
Where highways never ran;
But let me live by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by—
The men who are good and the men who are bad,
As good and as bad as I.
I would not sit in the scorner's seat
Or hurl a cynic's ban;
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road,
By the side of the highway of life,
The men who press with the ardor of hope;
The men who are faint with the strife,
But I turn not away from their smiles nor their tears,
Both parts of an infinite plan—
Let me live in a house by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,
And mountains of wearisome height;
That the road passes on through the long afternoon
And stretches away to the night.
And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice
And weep with the strangers that moan,
Nor live in my house by the side of the road
Like a man who dwells alone.

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Let me live in my house by the side of the road,

It's here the race of men go by—

They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong,

Wise—foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat.

Or hurl the cynic's ban?

Let me live in my house by the side of the road

And be a friend to man.

Our colleague's spirit has passed to the great beyond but the sweetness of his life lingers with us—a pleasant memory and an encouragement to us toward greater service to our fellow man.

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Address by Representative Fairchild Of New York

MR. SPEAKER: To-day with me is a day of real mourning, as we are assembled here in memorial services for four of our colleagues who have gone to the great beyond. Those among us who knew Daniel J. Riordan the more intimately will speak of his splendid qualifications that endeared him to the memory of all who knew him. My closer acquaintance with my colleague and party associate, LUTHER W. MOTT; with my committee associate on the Foreign Affairs Committee, my lovable friend William Bourke Cockran; and my deep-seated regard for my three times opponent and good friend, James Vincent Ganly, leads me in reference to them to express in a few words my feeling of personal loss. To each and all of the loved ones in homes made desolate our hearts go out in deepest sympathy.

My first acquaintance with LUTHER W. MOTT was at the commencement of the war Congress. I soon became impressed, as all who knew him were impressed, with his quiet, earnest efficiency and his loyalty to his convictions. During the last Congress he was my close neighbor in the House Office Building, and I came to know him the more intimately and more and more to appreciate both his splendid qualifications and his kindly, thoughtful feeling for others.

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*Address by Representative Ward
Of New York*

MR. SPEAKER: No Member of this House, either from the State of New York or from any other State of the Union, who knew LUTHER W. MOTT has failed to have felt a sense of personal loss in his absence from these legislative Halls.

Leaves of the forest, responsive to the inexorable laws of nature, burst forth into greatest glory just before withering winter breathes icily upon them and sends them reeling to earth. So often fares the life of man. Just when he seems to have attained a period of greatest usefulness, death, which is the ultimate common heritage of us all, steals forth unerringly to its goal, and, as a star twinkles and disappears in the gray of the dawn, so the life that once pulsed and throbbed glows fitfully, grows cold, and is gathered to the eternal ages.

Leaves have their time to fall

And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath
And stars to set; but all,

Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death.

The inevitable hand of death laid itself upon LUTHER MOTT before his life and service had blossomed into full fruition. Born in Oswego, N. Y., November 30, 1874, he had not yet reached the half-century mark in years. Comparatively he was yet a young man.

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LUTHER MOTT had served in the Legislature of the State of New York and was in his thirteenth year of service in this body. As chairman of the New York State Republican delegation, he ranked as a party leader. As a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, he had the respect of his colleagues. On the floor of this House he was held in highest esteem.

His untimely death, unexpected as it was, shocked and grieved me. I always found him kindly and affable, sincere and sympathetic, considerate and courteous, and I am glad for the opportunity of paying tribute to his memory. This House was honored and dignified by his presence. The great State of New York is better because of his service. The community in which he lived profited in him as its representative.

During my melancholy privilege of attending his funeral last July I saw first-hand an abundance of evidence in testimony to the honor and reverence of his immediate fellow citizens. It was deeply impressed upon me that though these mourners must turn away from the mound marking his eternal resting place, there would be no turning away from his memory, enshrined forever in the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him best.

In accordance as men serve, so they live on and never die. LUTHER MOTT, colleague and friend, served well and faithfully, and we gather to-day not with misty eyes or weary hearts to dwell upon the sorrow of his passing. Rather, accepting this resignedly as part of the Divine order of things, we rejoice that LUTHER MOTT lived.

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Address by Representative Dempsey
Of New York

Mr. SPEAKER: Eight years ago I came to the House of Representatives and found LUTHER W. MOTT here with a service of four years. After a brief time I became more closely associated with him than any of his other colleagues. I knew, as Congressman Snell has told you, that he came of good stock on both sides. I knew that he had graduated from that great university, Harvard, and that he had had a splendid preparation for public life. I knew that in his initial contest he had met one of the ablest men in our State, Hon. Elon F. Brown, a man much older, well known, and of rare ability as a debater, and I knew that Mr. MOTT, much younger, had defeated him. I knew that there was no man who was stronger with his constituents in all this body than was LUTHER W. MOTT, and on the surface it was hard to reconcile these known facts with Mr. MOTT's personality. He was small and not impressive in appearance. He had an unobtrusive, quiet manner. He had the misfortune of being partially deaf, so that he was unable to wholly regulate by ear the volume of his own voice, and often would speak so low that the listener would be obliged to have him repeat what he had said. He rarely spoke on the floor of this House. He was not a figure in the House debates, and the question often arose how one could reconcile these things with the fact of

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his being so remarkably strong a figure with his constituents and in all northern New York. It was not at all difficult when you came to know Mr. MOTT and his character to reconcile these superficial contradictions, to see why he was a great force in politics, a leader among men, and to realize that his very marked success in spite of his drawbacks proved more clearly his great ability.

I remember very well walking one morning with Uncle Joe Cannon from the Army and Navy Club to the House. I asked Mr. Cannon whom in all of the long service he had in the House he regarded as the ablest debater. He told me who the man was, and said that he had seen him repeatedly make remarkable speeches, replete with quotations, logical, convincing, eloquent, without opportunity of preparation, and then I remember how Uncle Joe finished the description of that man by condemning him because he had no moral courage whatever. Mr. Cannon said that he would slink away into the cloakroom after having led his party in a remarkable debate and avoid voting. Mr. MOTT had two rare qualities. One was remarkable foresight and the other was undaunted courage. Let me illustrate this by two instances. Those of us who came to serve with Mr. MOTT, as I did, long after he had espoused woman suffrage, had the impression that he was an advocate of that cause because his wife warmly espoused it and to please her. I imbibed that opinion, as did my friends, and one day when Mr. MOTT and I were walking down town he said to me, "Wallace, I do not believe that you know the history of my

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association with woman suffrage. In the first parade in the city of Washington for woman suffrage just two men marched. The day before the march my wife came to me and said, 'LUTHER, I always leave you to manage your political matters, but this is not simply a political matter, this is a social matter as well, and I am going to ask you as a favor to me not to march in that parade tomorrow.' I said to her, 'You are absolutely wrong, and I am going to march.'” And march he did.

It was a fair and good illustration of his general characteristics. He could foresee that woman suffrage was bound to come long in advance of the generality of men who were devoting their time to politics, and he had the courage to espouse the cause when other men were afraid to advocate it. Take another public question. There was no earlier advocate, no more earnest supporter of prohibition in the United States than LUTHER MOTT in season and out of season. Throughout his district and wherever he had any influence he worked valiantly for the cause. Now, there are no two characteristics in public men more admirable or as valuable as courage and foresight, and those two illustrations, which could be multiplied, give the secret and the reason of MOTT's wonderful strength among his people and among those who knew him best. He had one other characteristic. MOTT was a man faithful and devoted to his friends. He loved politics. He loved public life. He had no other interest in life aside from his family and his social activities. He did not care for business; he loved to devote 24 hours every

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day to politics and public affairs, and he loved to work in that field in association with friends. Why, no man acquires friends except the man who is able to devote himself to the interests of his friends and to give them help and inspire them in their work, and MOTT had that quality in a superlative degree.

One who was his friend never had to go to him and ask him to do things, never had to go and ask what his position was in that which concerned his friend. He knew that MOTT would be for him and with him and do unsparingly, ungrudgingly, and untiringly all one friend could do for another. His home life, his family life, was ideal. His wife and he were devoted to one another. They worked together in the most admirable companionship. She is a college woman, with a splendid mind, and she entered whole-heartedly into all of her husband's plans and struggles. He had a splendid family of children of whom he was entitled to be and was proud. MOTT left a very distinguished mark in all northern New York. There was no one in all that wide expanse of country who did not believe he could accomplish results in Washington, and that he could accomplish results is evidenced in two ways. First, all over the State of New York those who were interested in the present tariff, when that bill was under consideration, came to MOTT with their tariff problems. He worked untiringly on their questions. He studied so that he understood what they ought to have, and through his efforts they secured much of what ought to have been provided for them in the bill. He had

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a long and hard fight to become a member of the Ways and Means Committee. It was contended by those opposing him that some one should be made a member of the committee who could come on this floor and debate tariff schedules and tariff issues, and that it was not sufficient simply to have a man who was able to sit in committee and do his work well there, but in spite of the fact that it was concededly true that he could not come here and debate because of his infirmity of hearing, MOTT, after a long struggle, after a long debate in his own delegation, went on the committee triumphantly and unanimously. Mr. MOTT will be long mourned by his multitude of friends, among whom you can include all of his constituents, all of northern New York, as well as those who bore personal relations to him. He rendered a marked and valuable public service and made a mark upon his time.

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Address by Representative Crowther Of New York

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE: I shall be very brief at this time. LUTHER W. MOTT was a very close personal friend of mine. He was a member of the committee of which I have the privilege of now being a member, and my association with him in relation to the necessities of the particular territory in which I live showed me conclusively that he had the interest not only of his particular constituency at heart but of all the people of this great Nation. If there is one thing to be gained or to be developed from these memorial exercises, so many of which we have been compelled within a brief time to hold, it is the inspiration gained from the record of the distinguished Members who have passed to the great beyond. It was not my privilege to know the Hon. Bourke Cockran intimately, and, while I could not agree with his political philosophy, I admired his great talent as an orator and never allowed my prejudice to dull the enjoyment of his cultured, scholastic expressions. Dan Riordan I knew very well, and at one time I had an office in the territory where his constituents lived. I know something of the love that they had for him. The Hon. James Vincent Ganly I did not have the pleasure of knowing personally, but Mr. MOTT, as I have said, was my personal friend. He was a student at

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Harvard College, taking a scholastic course in 1896, when I attended one of the professional schools and graduated two years later. So we had the bond of union as graduates belonging to the same alumnus.

There is a great deal of talk in this day and generation regarding efficiency, and that leads, of course, to better service, but if there ever was an efficient servant of his constituency it was LUTHER W. MOTT. MOTT was not an orator, as my colleague from New York [Mr. Dempsey] has stated, but he was in close touch with the needs of the home folks. He was a real friend. Somebody very aptly described a friend as one who knows all about you and still likes you, and that is a very expressive definition, if you will take the time to analyze it. So MOTT knew pretty well about me, and I knew very well about him, and we liked each other and kept up our friendship that had extended over some period of years. He was a helpful Member of the House, helpful not only to his constituents but helpful to his fellow colleagues. He was friendly to a degree, and you did not have to go and ask him if there was anything that appeared to him that would be helpful to you in your territory. If there was something; a clipping from a newspaper, if there was a thought in an editorial, if there was a news item that had any bearing, he was most anxious to go to you and help you if he possibly could. And right at the midst of his strength and his power politically he was taken from us. I was in the far West last summer when the news of his death reached me.

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Our families had been acquainted, and those of you who knew of the splendid culture and refinement of his wife and his children must have realized what happiness it was to him to live, and what sorrow it was for them to lose a loved husband and father at that time. It was impossible for me to come home in time to attend the funeral services, which was a matter of great regret to me.

Many times I had occasion to call on him for services that had been asked of me by people in my own territory, and I always found him willing to serve, willing to give his advice and give me the benefit of his judgment on matters that he had some six or eight years' experience with before it was my privilege to sit with him in this House.

I hope that some day the House in its wisdom will make these services an annual affair that we may have an orator of the day, the well of the House filled with beautiful palms and banks of flowers, the Clerk of the House reading the roll of the honored dead, with galleries well filled with the friends and loved ones of those who have taken the long journey, and thus pay a real tribute to those illustrious men, those resourceful, masterly, able men that devote years of their lives to the public service. Of course, the end of it all is the grave. The Arabs have a saying that, "Death is a camel that kneels before every man's tent," and sooner or later comes the white messenger, and none may say him nay. We must all take that great journey.

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The men with whom we associate in our daily labors sometimes forget during the life period to say the kind things and do the helpful things that will make life better and happier for men with whom we journey down the road.

You know the opportunity to do that is so often just at our elbows that we neglect it, and we think that way off yonder, somewhere, somewhere in the future, there will be the opportunity to do the things we have forgotten to do while our brother, our neighbor, and colleague walked down with us on the daily journey of life. Our duty lies here, our opportunity to express kindness, to do the kindly thing, to do the helpful thing is here on this greensward and not way over yonder somewhere, where we are always going to do it to-morrow. To-morrow is 3,000,000 miles northeast of nowhere, and that is the reason we never accomplish anything that we are going to do to-morrow. Now is the time. Perhaps I can convey the thought in these few closing lines:

A parish priest of great austerity
Climbed high in his church steeple
That he might be near to God
And bring God's word down to his people.

So on sermon script he daily wrote
What he thought came from heaven
And dropped it down on his people's heads
Two times each day in seven.

In His time God cried, "Come down and die,"
And the priest from out the steeple
Cried, "Where art Thou, Lord?"
And the Lord replied, "Down here, among the people."

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Address by Representative Frear Of Wisconsin

MR. SPEAKER: We speak a common language here to-day. The sounds of debate and of party strife are stilled as we pause to commemorate in feeble words the lives and records of those who were with us yesterday.

I knew LUTHER MOTT. He sat next to me on the great Ways and Means Committee for several years. Quiet, modest, sincere, evenly poised, and always friendly, he served his State and country with high purpose and ability. What more can be said in praise of any man? Signally honored by the presidency of the Bankers' Association of his own State in recent years, chairman of the congressional delegation of that great State, he maintained the dignity of his position and the confidence of his associates in this House to the end.

For years I occupied an office close to another strong member of the New York delegation, Dan Riordan, whom we meet to honor to-day. His quaint humor, capacity, frankness, understanding of men and human sympathy were known to all his colleagues, and these qualities given him by an all-wise Creator were marked advantages with which Riordan met his duties here and overcome many obstacles in the battle of life.

Each, in his way, had some attribute that helped fit into the scheme of life to attain success, and the

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employment of such talents is demanded from all those who would succeed. LUTHER MOTT and Dan Riordan were taken away before their allotted time, and each left friends without number who can not comprehend the inscrutable ways of the Infinite or understand why our colleagues are gone and we are left to carry on.

The problem of life is never more hard to understand than by those privileged to participate, however humbly, in the activities of this great legislative body and who witness the constant dropping off of the changing pilots without notice, while the ship of state moves on her even course.

The good which men do lives after them, never more certainly than under the dome of the Nation's Capitol. However much we may differ politically or fundamentally in individual methods or in our belief or reasoning, we soon learn here the value of mutual counsel and helpful advice. So, too, we soon recognize the high standards and legislative ideals of our colleagues and the influence of those who in past history have made this Hall famous. Every arch, every niche, every great window that admits the God-given light from above has echoed and reechoed with the voices of America's great statesmen who once stood where we stand to-day—voices now stilled—of those who have joined the innumerable throng.

In these brief, halting words of appreciation for our distinguished colleague whose memory we this day honor I believe I express the common judgment of all who knew him.

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The world goes on without marked incident whether we stay or go, and in that is a lesson for all of us that the greatest reward for service, if reward is deserved, comes from the right use of talents, however small or great, talents given us by the Creator. That is the brief tribute I am privileged to offer to the memory of our deceased colleague who in this Hall represented his constituents of the great Empire State faithfully and the people of this country so long and well.

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*Address by Representative Little
Of Kansas*

MR. SPEAKER: Eight years in the American House of Representatives is the greatest education our country now affords to an American citizen. Those of us who saw the sunrise of our lives from the doors of a junior western school, now become a great university, had a glimpse of the world that came when we were young and everything was new to us. We unrolled the ancient books of life and read in shining letters the history and philosophy of the world when it was worth reading—

When all the world was young, lad,
And all the trees were green,
When all the geese were swans, lad,
And every lass a queen.

Those who assembled around the altars of Harvard and Yale and those famous American schools enjoyed all the advantages that come with the development of American history and American citizenship. Others who trod the halls of Oxford or drank beer on the tables of Heidelberg or Vienna or Paris got a glimpse of everything in Europe worth while. In the Mosque of Elhazar, at Cairo, those of us who love mankind saw the youth of the whole Mohammedan world on exhibition at its studies and drank deep of the mysteries of that ancient abode of learning. Some have improved their resources and polished their attainments by weeks in Japan, or China, among

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the places where the world was born. They sipped of the wisdom of Confucius and learned with astonishment of the 300-year-old statecraft and poetry of Iyeyasu.

When we came here we knew that there were kings before Agamemnon and generals from whom Cæsar and Alexander learned the art of war. By the time that the average man came to this Hall he was on reasonably familiar terms with the characters and capacities of the great millionaire princes who so dominate the public and private life of this country. He may have known the youth of his native land showing its best on the field of battle for his country on the other side of the world. He may perhaps have lived in the palaces of the most ancient country of the Mediterranean East and spent many hours at the foot of the Sphinx, still keeping her own counsel. At any rate, he had known men in all walks of life and in all measures of victory and defeat. But never until he came here and received the diploma of several years' experience among his colleagues could he possibly have sounded all the depths that are now in the souls and hearts of his countrymen, sent to represent them here with all the powers of this mighty Republic. However provincial his feeling may have been, however narrow his views, he learned here the higher values of human nature, a broader and more generous understanding and comprehension of its attributes, and a kindlier sympathy with all its ambitions. Here I finally learned the absolute truth of a little verse my mother taught me:

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In men whom men condemn as ill
I see so much of goodness still,
In men whom men pronounce divine
I see so much of sin and blot,
I hesitate to draw the line
Between the two where God has not.

When we assemble in this Hall to pay tribute to the memories of our departed colleagues we fully realize the responsibilities and duties that bring us here and the value of their association and services. On this day all are equal. Millionaire and mendicant, sultan and slave, sage and simple, all march to the same music through that grim and ghostly cordon beyond which we may well all meet when the sun goes down.

When I came here, for example, Tammany Hall was a harsh word, and its denizens were subjects of my very stern suspicion. I saw at the head of the great appropriations of this country a man whose outstanding characteristic was absolute integrity and who came here from that great political headquarters. To my astonishment I found that in the very prime of his political career and the very summit of his political mastery of the wealth of the Republic he abandoned an assured seat in this House to go home and make a living for his family and start them in life. Moved by a sudden but matured and very natural impulse, I went to John J. Fitzgerald and apologized to him for my early misconception of him and told him that his departure was a very distinct and important loss to this country, and that I was proud to have been the colleague of so brilliant, so able, and so honest a gentleman.

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This day death takes a heavy toll of our colleagues of Tammany Hall and of its environment and friends. It writes on the wall this day the name of Bourke Cockran, the greatest orator of the House; of LUTHER MOTT, who leaves to posterity a record of faithful industry and loyal adherence to the great causes of woman suffrage and prohibition, which stamps his as a name long to be remembered in the councils of the upper State of New York; of Daniel Riordan, who was an honest gentleman, kind and courteous, and at all times actuated by the motive of service to his constituency; and of James V. Ganly, who departed this life at the very time when he gave evidence of a most useful and promising public career, who labored zealously in discharging his duties, and in the short time that he was here gained the respect of his fellow Members.

We may well doubt whether on any one day in our career in this House any of us shall see fate snatch so brilliant a page from our books of membership. Except one or two great names, most of them pass off unwept, unhonored, and unsung among the constituents who sent us here from the West, but they all carry with them the profound respect and affection of the colleagues with whom they are best acquainted in this House. We know that they all have at home this day in the great metropolitan city vast audiences which assemble to pay due and well-deserved respect to their memories. We know that this night in the great New York City there will be many sad hearts and many sorrowful homes where they are held in loving and gracious memory, to which they are

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well entitled. We will spread on the record of this Congress forever these feeble testimonies to their high character, their sound patriotism, and their many talents, so that the young men and the young women of this country for the next century may find the record and from it broaden their respect for their own great country of which we are all a part.

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Address by Representative Griffin *Of New York*

MR. SPEAKER: During the past year there has hardly been a month in which we have not been called upon to pay solemn tribute to the memory of some Member of our House who has been summoned to enter the mysterious portals of eternity.

Since the Sixty-eighth Congress has begun its career 16 of our Members have answered the imperative summons. Four times has the Herald of Death addressed that summons to the delegation from the Empire State.

First, William Bourke Cockran, the scholar and finished orator, who in eloquent periods so often reverberating within this Chamber pictured the past, presaged the future, and drew from the bounteous stores of his mighty brain wise counsels for the present.

Then Daniel J. Riordan, that incomparable man, whose personality, without the meretricious aid of empty pretense, wielded so powerful an influence upon his colleagues throughout the long period of his legislative service.

The summons then came to LUTHER WRIGHT MOTT, the refined and delicate scholar, courtly yet sincere, whose service of seven terms at great personal sacrifice was a credit to his fidelity, an honor to his constituency, and a boon to his country.

Lastly, James Vincent Ganly answered the imperious call. His death came as a bolt from a clear

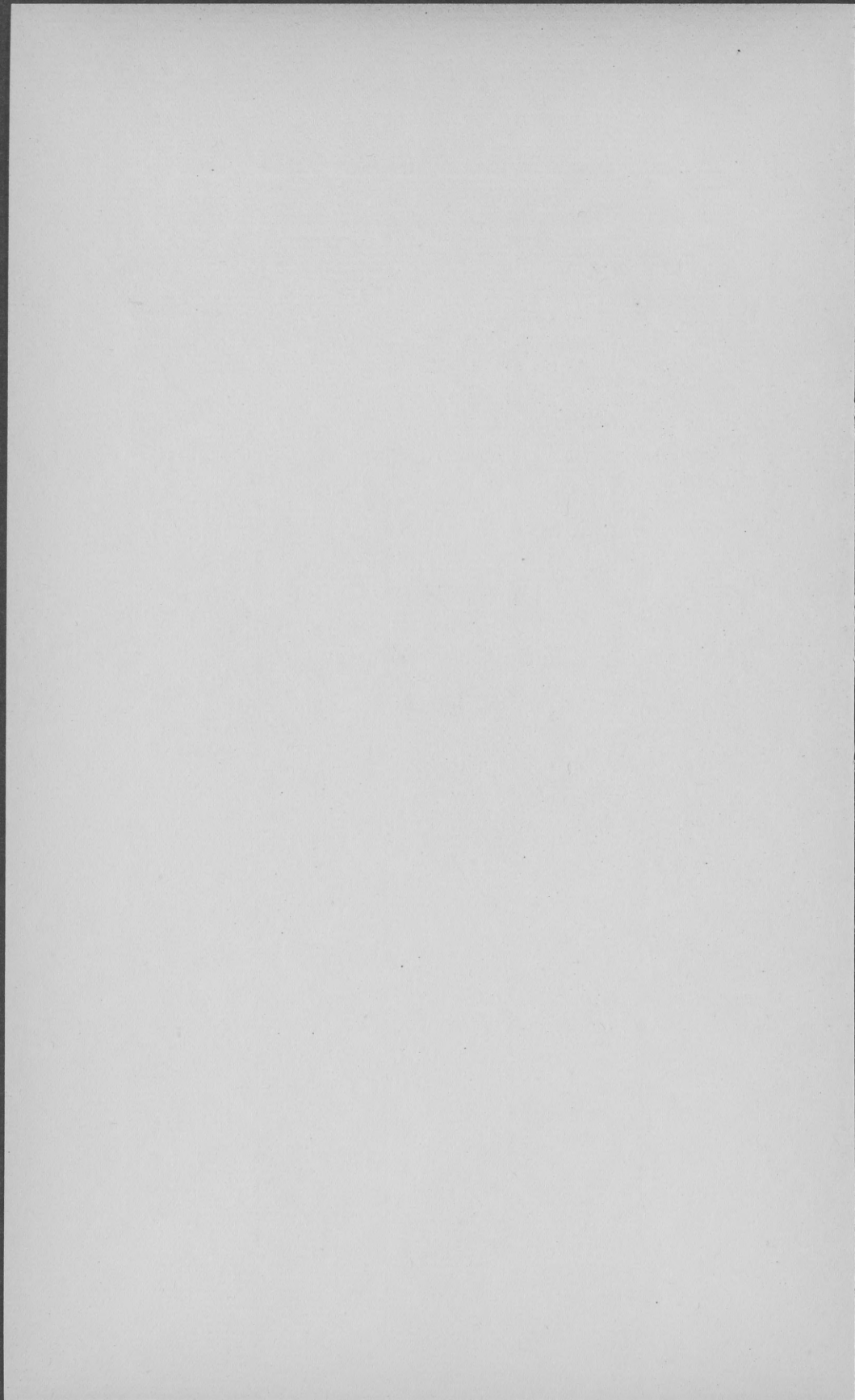
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sky and grieved intensely all who knew and loved him. The very circumstances of the fatal accident which marked him for sacrifice were profoundly and significantly indicative of his generous, kindly nature.

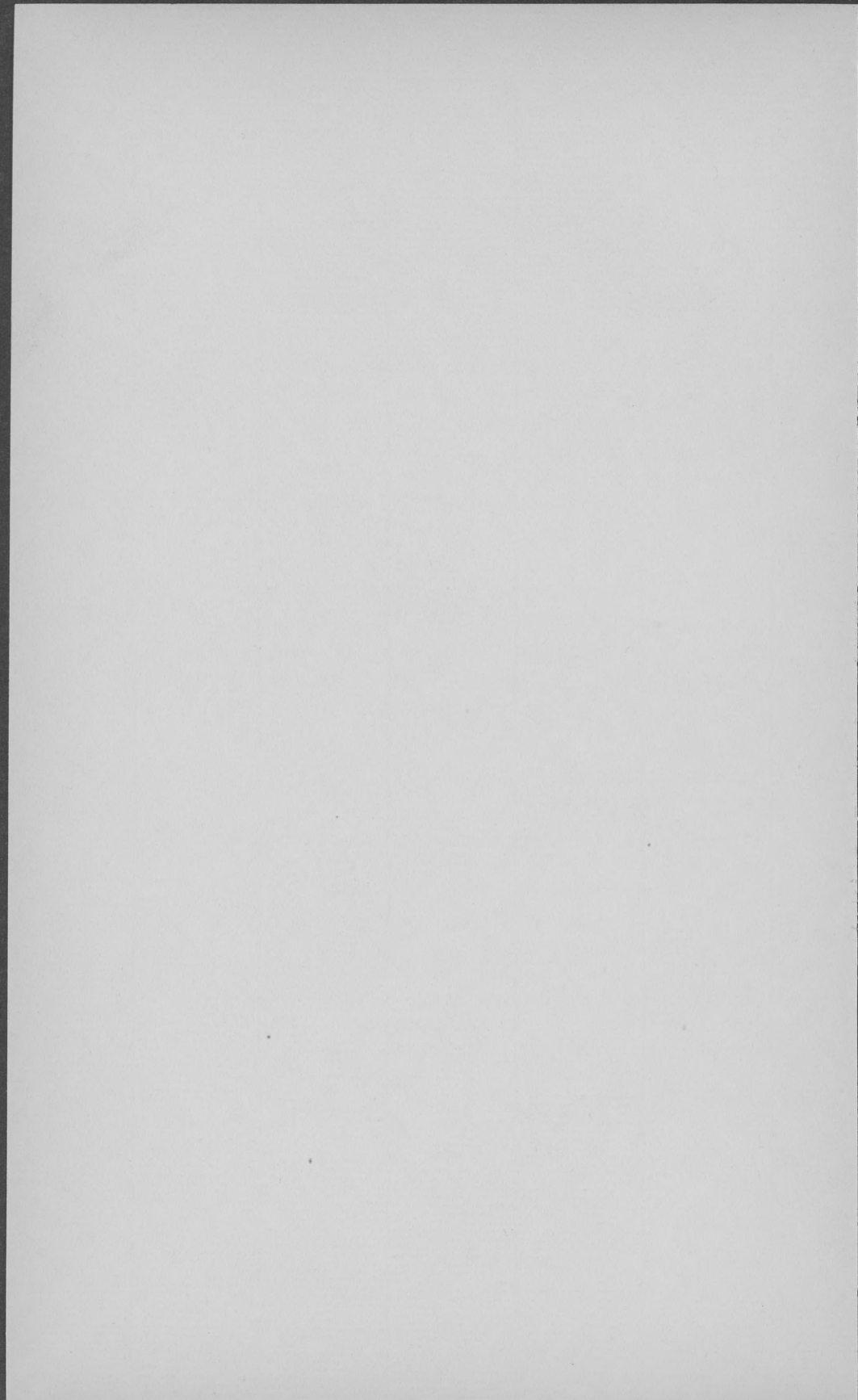
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It can not be said of him that his eloquence shook the battlements of fame. He made no adventures into novel spheres. He resorted to no showy expedients to attract the crowd or attain ephemeral distinction. His life was simple, his aims modest. He sought only to be kind, to be just, to be true; and he loved his fellow men.

In accordance with the order heretofore made and as a further mark of respect (at 5 o'clock and 50 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, May 5, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon.



Proceedings
in the
United States Senate



Proceedings in the United States Senate

THURSDAY, *December 6, 1923.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Chaffee, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, late a Representative from the State of New York, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

MONDAY, *December 10, 1923.*

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate a resolution (H. Res. 19) of the House of Representatives, which was read, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect this House do now adjourn.

Mr. WADSWORTH. Mr. President, I offer the resolution which I send to the desk, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The resolution (S. Res. 47) was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, late a Representative from the State of New York.

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Resolved further, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

MR. WADSWORTH. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Representative whose death has just been announced, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 11, 1923, at 12 o'clock meridian.

MONDAY, May 5, 1924.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Haltigan, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the resolutions (H. Res. 283) of the House adopted as a tribute to the memory of Hon. W. Bourke Cockran, Hon. Daniel J. Riordan, Hon. LUTHER W. MOTT, and Hon. James V. Ganly, late Representatives from the State of New York.

